

Claims:

1. A method comprising:
notifying an occupant of a vehicle of the occurrence of a detected sound
outside of the vehicle.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the occupant of the
vehicle that sound associated with an emergency vehicle has been detected.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the notifying the occupant includes
broadcasting at least a portion of the sound associated with the emergency vehicle
through at least a portion of a sound system in the vehicle.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein broadcasting at least a portion of the
sound associated with the emergency vehicle includes broadcasting the sound
through headphones.

5. The method of claim 2, further comprising disabling a sound system in the
vehicle, so that the detected sound may be heard in the vehicle.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising disabling a portable
communication device in the vehicle.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting sound associated with an emergency vehicle to provide the detected sound.

5 8. The method of claim 7, wherein detecting sound includes filtering sound outside the vehicle such that sound having a desired frequency range is heard in the vehicle.

10 9. The method of claim 8, wherein filtering sound includes processing the sound with a processing unit.

10 10. The method of claim 9, wherein processing the sound includes converting the sound to a digital representation.

5 11. The method of claim 1, wherein notifying the occupant includes broadcasting a prerecorded message.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein notifying the occupant includes enabling a warning indicator.

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13. A method comprising:

detecting the occurrence of a particular sound outside of a vehicle; and

informing an occupant of the vehicle of the occurrence of the particular sound.

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14. The method of claim 13, wherein detecting the occurrence of a particular sound includes:

capturing sound external to the vehicle with a microphone; and

determining if at least a portion of the sound external to the vehicle

10 comprises a predetermined characteristic.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein determining if at least a portion of the sound external to the vehicle comprises a predetermined characteristic includes filtering the sound external to the vehicle.

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16. The method of claim 14, wherein determining if at least a portion of the sound external to the vehicle comprises a predetermined characteristic includes converting at least a portion of the sound external to the vehicle to a digital representation and determining if the digital representation includes the
20 predetermined characteristic.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein informing an occupant of the vehicle of
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Year	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1980	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100

18. A system comprising:

a microphone to capture at least a portion of the sound external to a vehicle;

and

a processing unit to determine if sound captured by the microphone

5 comprises a predetermined characteristic.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a broadcast unit to broadcast
at least a portion of the external sound in the vehicle.

10 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the processing unit is adapted to
determine if the sound external to the vehicle includes sound associated with an
emergency vehicle.